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REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in connection with the interview held with the Examiner in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The Examiner's highly beneficial cooperation during the interview has been gratefully appreciated.

In view of the discussions during the interview, applicant amended claim 13, the broadest claim on file, so as to more clearly define the present invention and to distinguish it from the prior art.

As for the recess disclosed in the patent to Schaefer, it is believed that the Examiner referred to cutout 23 in Figure 3. As can be seen from Figure 3 and from the specification in column 3, line 32, the cutout 23 opens into the end face 12a' of portion 12a.

As can be further noted from column 3, lines 44-46, grooves 20, 21, bore 22 and cutout 23 form a channel or passage for introduction of insulating material 26. This means that the cutout 23 is open into the end face 12a' in order to create a channel for the insulating material to fill space 24.

Claim 13 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the patent to Schaefer by defining that the central recess is elongated in the axial direction. This feature is disclosed in particular in Figures 5-7 in connection with page 3, lines 24-27. The oval contour of the recess provides a dimensionally stable lamination profile. It is believed that this feature clearly and patentably distinguishes the present invention from the prior art.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully requested to allow claim 13, the broadest claim on file, together with other claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

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Respectfully submitted,


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